Lab to land programme in Rajasthan

*463. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken so far, to implement the Lab to Land programme in Rajasthan;

(b) what benefits have accrued so far therefrom to the farmers of that State; and

(c) what further steps are being taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Lab to Land Programme (LLP) was implemented from 1979-91 upto the end of Seventh Plan by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through the existing network of institutes under ICAR, Sukhadia University, and also Non-Governmental Organizations. As the programme was focussed primarily on transfer of new technologies and improving of farming systems, 13787 farm families from Rajasthan were adopted under this programme.

(b) The benefits accrued from LLP to the farmers were adoption of latest production technologies for sorghum, wheat, rabi maize, oilseeds and pulses; intercropping of maize pigeonpea/cowpea/greengram/blackgram, cottonpulses, and sorghumGreengram; planting of tree saplings and grass species for checking wind erosion and sand-dune stabilization; and improvement of local sheep.

(c) The programme has not found place in the subsequent Plans. However the objectives of the programme were integrated with the ongoing programme of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK).

Cattle Insurance in Karnataka

*464. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) wheather it is a fact that Cattle Insurance Scheme was launched as a pilot project in eight districts of Karnataka, in the year 2000;

(b) if so, the number of the cattle insured and the persons benefited;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the scheme in the entire State; and

(d) if so, what would be the share of Karnataka Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Central Sector Cattle Insurance Scheme was launched in the year 2000 on pilot basis in eight selected districts of the country *viz.* Nagaur (Rajasthan), Gumla (Jharkhand), Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh), Yavatmal (Maharashtra), Dharamapuri (Tamil Nadu), Mahboobnagar (Andhra Pradesh), Jajpur (Orissa), Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh). The scheme has not been approved for continuation in the X-Plan.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Enforcement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

†*465. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that developmental activities have been affected badly in tribal areas, due to enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government would consider making the Act flexible, so that development activities in tribal areas are not affected; and

(d) if so, what would be the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 regulates diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purpose for maintaining integrity of forest cover. Forests provide several usufructs in meeting the sustenance of livelihood needs of the tribals including food during lean period. The act, being regulatory in nautre, has enough flexibility to permit development activities beneficial to the tribals living in the forests or on the forest fringes without causing permanent damage to the forest eco-system.

Decline in consumption of foodgrains

*466. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita consumption of foodgrains during the period 1980-1990 and 1990-2000, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that per capita consumption of foodgrains is on the decline; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.